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GLASS FACTORY OPENED IN SERBIA

A new, modern glass factory was formally opened at Pancevo on 6 March. The factory will produce glass tubing for the manufacture of laboratory glass equipment, ampoules for the medical profession, and other glass products for the medical products industry, scientific institutes, hospitals, mining, and light and heavy industry. The manufacture of glass tubing for laboratory equipment represents a new field for the Yugoslav glass industry.

Josip Cazi, Minister of Light Industry, who spoke at the opening ceremony, announced that the present installed capacity of the Yugoslav glass industry for the production of glass is 46 percent, and for the production of window glass, 43.5 percent, of the figure set by the Five-Year Plan for production by the end of 1951, which calls for 2.5 times more hollow glass production and 3 times more flat glass than before the war. By the end of 1949, the installed capacity of the industry will fulfill the Five-Year Plan 81 percent for hollow and 100 percent for flat glass. Besides the products of this new factory, the Yugoslav glass industry now produces the following items which were not made in Yugoslavia before the war: bottles for blood transfusions, insulators, eyeglass lenses, incandescent light bulbs, lead crystal made from Yugoslav raw materials, glass for miners' lamps, glass wool and many other kinds of sanitary and industrial glass, including flint glass, thermos bottles, glass for copying apparatus, and rollers for mills and for the leather industry.

Yugoslavia is exceptionally rich in quartz sand, lime, dolomite, clay, feldspar, sodium, selenium, and other raw materials for the glass industry.

The glass industry fulfilled its 1948 plan 110.9 percent. Results would have been still better if Czechoslovakia had not delivered firebrick of such poor quality that its rapid deterioration left lumps of stone in the glass. As a result, there was much breakage, the quality of the glass was reduced, and the furnaces had to be repaired frequently.

The 1949 production plan for the glass industry calls for 40 percent more industrial glass production than in 1948.

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